r/popculturechat • 6mo ago
lunarcrimes

Elizabeth Gilbert admits to enabling late girlfriend Rayya's drug relapse, plotting her murder, and abandoning her on her deathbed in new memoir condemned as "exploitative" by Rayya's family

Elizabeth Gilbert (author of Eat Pray Love) released her controversial new memoir All The Way To The River this week.

Some facts from the book. Warning, these get more fucked up the farther you read. This info is all also available publicly in her many shared excerpts and interviews promoting the book.

- Elizabeth Gilbert and Rayya Elias had been best friends since 2000, before Elizabeth wrote Eat Pray Love
- Rayya was a former cocaine and heroine addict; Elizabeth had gifted Rayya a house in 2013 to allow Rayya to write a memoir called Harley Loco about her addiction and recovery
- When Rayya was diagnosed with pancreatic and liver cancer in 2016 and given six months to live, Elizabeth immediately broke up with her husband (the man she met at the end of Eat Pray Love and whom she wrote about marrying in Committed) to confess her

love to Rayya

- Elizabeth did not include details of her divorce from her ex husband in the book in order to protect his privacy
- Rayya and Elizabeth quickly became a couple and had a commitment ceremony
- Elizabeth promised to not leave Rayya's side throughout her cancer and death journey, promising to follow her "all the way to the river" (inspiring the title of the memoir)
- After Rayya's cancer diagnosis, Elizabeth enabled Rayya's relapse back into drug addiction:
- Elizabeth used alcohol, weed, Xanax, Ambien, mushrooms, and MDMA with Rayya
- Elizabeth watched as Rayya abused prescription pain killers
- Elizabeth knowingly gave Rayya money for her to start buying cocaine again
- Elizabeth also personally bought Rayya thousands of dollars of cocaine from local drug dealers
- Elizabeth registered with the city as a drug user to get needles for Rayya
- Elizabeth tied off Rayya's limbs and held flashlights up to Rayya's veins to help her shoot up
- In the midst of Rayya's decline, Elizabeth planned Rayya's murder, collecting the needed medications and fentanyl patches
- Elizabeth was clear this was in fact a murder attempt and not a compassionate euthanasia, as Rayya did not want to die
- Elizabeth said this of the planned murder: "I'm the nice lady who wrote Eat Pray Love. And I came very close to premeditatedly and cold-bloodedly murdering my partner because she had taken her affection away from me, and because I was extremely tired."
- Elizabeth stopped her murder plan when Rayya began suspecting her
- After Elizabeth's murder plan was thwarted, she sat Rayya down and told her that she thought Rayya had lost her soul and her integrity, that Rayya was degrading Elizabeth's soul, that Elizabeth had accepted Rayya's death, and that Elizabeth felt she had done all she could and now she wasn't going to "stick around" for what Rayya had "gotten herself into"
- Elizabeth then kicked Rayya out of their shared home with no warning and went no contact for several weeks, despite knowing that Rayya had nowhere to go
- Rayya, now suddenly homeless and still dying and addicted to the drugs Elizabeth had been buying and administering to her, was forced to move several states away to live with one of her exes who agreed to take her in
- Rayya's ex quickly got Rayya sober and back under a physician-approved medication plan by administering prescription medications at the right time, locking up meds, and not buying or giving her drugs
- Due to the effects of her illness and withdrawal, Rayya was

reportedly distressed during the weeks of Elizabeth's sudden no contact, feeling confused and disoriented as to why she was living in a new state and why Elizabeth had gone missing

- After Rayya's ex got her sober, Elizabeth re-established contact, and visited Rayya at her ex's home until Rayya eventually died a few weeks/months later
- Now, 7 years after Rayya's death, Elizabeth claims to have achieved her highest level of peace yet through 12-step programs for sex and love addiction
- Part of Elizabeth's healing for the past few years has involved refusing to give struggling family members or friends any financial support from her multi-million dollar fortune, calling this "financial sobriety"
- Rayya's sister objected to the memoir in an interview with the New York Times and called it exploitative, saying she didn't want Rayya's death to be monetized
- Elizabeth claims she got permission to write the memoir several years after Rayya's death when Rayya's dead spirit visited from beyond the grave to commune with Elizabeth in Elizabeth's own mind
- According to Elizabeth, she could hear Rayya's spirit in her mind telling her that Rayya "kind of digs" being dead, and that Elizabeth should write all the gory details in a public book because Rayya's spirit has "no use for dignity" since she's dead
- In this short telepathic communion, Rayya's spirit also apparently called Elizabeth "beautiful" three times, made cancer jokes, and predicted that Elizabeth was going to become enlightened
- Elizabeth's ultimate view on what happened: "Rayya is my most beautiful story"

12K · 1.8K

pccmodbot MOD • 6mo ago

Welcome to r/popculturechat! 😊

THE POPCULTURECHAT DISCORD SERVER IS NOW LIVE 👾 ❤️‍🔥 🎉 Click HERE to join! 📲

As a proud BIPOC, LGBTQ+ & woman-dominated space, this sub is for civil discussion only. If you don't know where to begin, start by participating in our Sip & Spill Daily Discussion Threads!

No bullies, no bigotry. ✊🏿 ✊🏾 ✊🏽 ✊🏼 ✊🏻 🏳️‍🌈 🏳️‍⚧️

Please read & respect our rules, abide by Reddiquette, and check out our wiki! For any questions, our modmail is always open.

1

hydrangeasinbloom • 6mo ago

Imagine admitting any of this without being waterboarded. My god.

7K

theskymaybeblue • 6mo ago

Her sheer audacity to publish this says so much. It's actually insane and I hope she's lying or greatly exaggerating because otherwise... Jesus.

2.6K

105 more replies

30 more replies

skermahger • 6mo ago

.... what did I just read.....

9.1K

[deleted] • 6mo ago

1.3K

4 more replies

nagellak • 6mo ago

My face throughout this entire post

1.7K

4 more replies

theskymaybeblue • 6mo ago

Very audibly shouted what the fuck? Because what the actual fuck.

424

4 more replies

27 more replies

flrbonihacwm-t-wm • 6mo ago

That’s not very eat, pray, love of her

5.7K

john_the_quain • 6mo ago

Was it a typo for prey all along?

4.1K

60 more replies

85 more replies

JennaTulwartz • 6mo ago

I know this overall is not funny at all but

> In this short telepathic communion, Rayya’s spirit also apparently called Elizabeth “beautiful” three times

lol

724

11 more replies

adultdolllover • 6mo ago

This...is genuinely evil. Cartoonishly evil. What in the ever loving fuck?

2.7K

_Atlas_Drugged_ • 6mo ago

Like. I can actually see indulging your terminally ill partners desires to do a shitload of drugs and party on the way out. It’s a gray area, but basically everything else is really messed up.

899

Conscious_Pen_3485 • 6mo ago

I got whiplash from how quickly I went from “good for indulging in your partner’s dying wishes to party hard” to “oh wait, no, this woman is literally evil and using her dying partner as an excuse.”

I’m pretty blown away by how awful she is and she just… happily admits it? What strange brand of narcissism is this? I feel so bad for Rayya’s family who must endure this insanity, this opening of a wound…ugh. I’d be devastated.

695

12 more replies

6 more replies

6 more replies

Euphoric-biscuit • 6mo ago

I watched a YT video about this and MY GOD it’s disturbing how she basically used a dying woman to “experience fun things”.

4.2K

Ok_Category_5 • 6mo ago

This is literally how Eat Pray Love (at least the movie) goes. She just visits places and hears from other people about their lives, and then decides that hearing about character development is the same as actually developing your character.

1.1K

18 more replies

asietsocom • 6mo ago

And then abandoning her when she's NOT FUN ANYMORE BECAUSE SHE'S DYING

3.1K

Pugasaurus_Tex • 6mo ago

Honestly kinda believe her friend did communicate from the dead to tell her to write this

Bc she really wanted the entire world to be like wtf is wrong w this bitch

2.6K

17 more replies

15 more replies

60 more replies

AgentBrittany • 6mo ago

I am begging Elizabeth Gilbert to go to therapy and quit writing books exploiting all of her relationships. This woman has not evolved. How many spiritual awakening can someone have? I'm so sick of her.

3.6K

shoshanna_in_japan • 6mo ago

Having too many spiritual awakenings is definitely 🚩🚩🚩

1.7K

40 more replies

nishi-no-majo • 6mo ago

I'm a huge Tom Waits fan. There is a pretty good book Tom Waits on Tom Waits: Interviews and Encounters (from Musicians in Their Own Words series). It's a selection of over fifty interviews. One particular interview was quite strange. It wasn't really an interview with Tom. More like a very short memoir of some girl who went to take an interview with Tom Waits. Everything was about her and nothing about Tom. The name of the interviewer girl? Elizabeth Gilbert. She always had this totally astonishing super power to make everyting, big things and the smalest things, about herself. Even before any of her spiritual awakenings.

425

8 more replies

97 more replies

raphaellaskies • 6mo ago

I generally thought that writing a memoir in which you admit to a bunch of crimes was a bad idea, but what do I know?

1.4K

32 more replies

Which-Amphibian9065 • 6mo ago

This just sent me on a rabbit hole, in which I found this article about it.

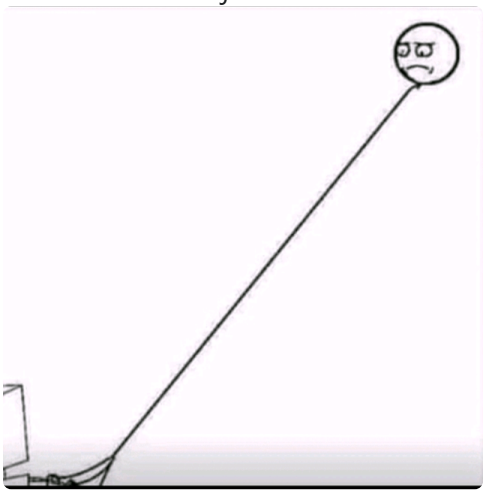
"When Rayya divorces, Gilbert offers her an isolated house, away from her sobriety group. When Rayya itches to drink again, Liz enables it. Once Rayya is diagnosed and given a six-month prognosis, Liz confesses her love, a dangerous thing to offer a dying addict. “Let’s just live balls to the wall until I die,” Rayya says, turning down chemo for cocaine, which Liz pays for. All this Liz thinks of as “my most beautiful story”."

812

23 more replies

donttrustthellamas • 6mo ago

I don't like what I just read



362

3 more replies

Appropriate_Ice_2433 • 6mo ago

That is all deeply disturbing.

1K

4 more replies

Temporary-Bag4248 • 6mo ago

i'm the first person on my family's lineage to read this combination of words

1.2K

10 more replies